#### WASHINGTON.

LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE INSEPARABLE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1864.

#### MILITARY VANDALISM

In the report we yesterday gave of a statement made by Gen. Early in explanation of the considerations which had induced him to order the burning of Chambersburg, in Pennsylvania, that officer is represented to have said that he had seen "with much pleasure, since then, an able article in the National Intelligencer, which called upon the North to consider gravely whether such a mode of warfare as they had inaugurated is likely to yield a success commensurate to its cost."

If Gen Early's opportunities for reading the National Intelligencer were as good and as frequent as they were in the days when he was, as he recalls, "an old-line Whig," or even when, as a delegate in the Virginia Convention from Franklin county, he "zealously opposed and voted against the ordinance of secession," he would have been in a position to know that, as well before as since the burning of Chambersburg, we have set our faces steadfastly against all barbarism and vandalism in the prosecution of the present unhappy war. We have never been slow to condemn the outrages committed by our forces in the South, whether as seen in the abuse of helpless women and children and unarmed men, or in the wanton destruction of either public or private property. We know that there is a class of distempered "loyalists" who see, or profess to see, in any animadversion on excesses committed by Federal troops the traces of "sympathy with the South" or of "tenderness towards rebels," but we should suppose ourselves to have lived to little purpose if we could allow the vagaries of such minds to deter us from the expression of sentiments common to every man of humane instincts, and which are vivid and deep according to every man's enlightened devotion to the Union.

We fear it is true, as Gen. Early says, that Gen. Hunter, in his recent raid on Lynchburg, "caused widespread ruin wherever he passed." All the accounts from Union sources confirm the statement. And we have generally observed that the destructiveness visited by officers like Gen. Hunter and Gen. Milroy on defenceless persons and on private property is about in proportion to their inefficiency against the enemy in arms. They seem to be aware that they must do something to satisfy the public, and, not being able to win battles and make conquests in the military sense of these words, they betake themselves to the cheap resorts of license and violence against defenceless "sympathizers with the rebellion" who come within their power-knowing very well that any license and violence of this kind will be sure to conciliate for them the favor and admiration of that class of "lovalists" to whom we have referred above. And perhaps they hope, under the cover of praises won from this quarter, to screen themselves from the dissatisfaction of their military superiors.

We take great pleasure in saying that we believe both President Lincoln and the Secretary of War deplore these proceedings of some of our commanders in the South. We have understood that our military authorities promptly revoked some of the recent lawless orders of Gen. Hunter for the banishment of certain persons in Frederick, Maryland, the act of revocation, whether immediately due to the President or to the Secretary of War, reflects honor upon them both, for we presume they both concurred in the propriety of restraining General Hunter's inhumanity and assumptions of power. For we do not need to say that all wanton violence committed by our troops against persons or property in the South is in direct and palpable contempt of the President's commands to the contrary. In his proclamation of April 15, 1861, after saying that the first service assigned to the forces then called out would probably be to reposseas the forts, places, and property which have been seized from the Union, he was careful to add

as follows: . And in every event the utmost care will be of served, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any d vastation, any destruction of or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens of any part of the country."

But it may be said that this injunction was issued before the war had become flagrant, and does not apply to the present military status. How little ground there is for such a reply may be seen in the fact that in his "General Instructions," issued through the War Department under this head on the 22d or July, 1862, and addressed to all our "military commanders within the States of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi; Louisians, Texas, and Arkansas," the President, while authorizing them "in an orderly manner to seize and use any property, real or personal, which may be convenient or necessary for their several commands, for supplies or for other military purposes," added : "And while property may be destroyed for proper military objects, none shall be said :

destroyed in wantonness or malice." Every officer, therefore, who either destroys or permits his troops to destroy private or public proporty "in wantonness or malice" is as much amenable to military justice for a disobedience of the President's order as he is subject to the condemnation of his countrymen and the scorn of the civilized world. And it is a source of profound regret to us that the President, animated as we know him to be by humane impulses, does not take some measures to vindicate his authority on this subject, and rescue his orders from the contempt into which they have fallen. He would equally consult his own good fame and the interests of the Union cause by doing so.

## ARRIVAL OF REBEL OFFICERS.

The mail steamer Keyport arrived about eight o'clock vesterday morning from City Point with mails and passengers. Some four or-five hundred prisoners, mostly South Carolinians and Mississippians, taken on Sunday last by the Fifth Corps, were brought down to City Point on Monay afternoon, and the officers among them, forty-two in number, including Lieut Colonels Bayne, 16th Mississippi; Blake, 27th South Carolina; and Major Bell, 12th Missiesippi, were brought up on the Keyport, in charge of Lieut. Missell, 20th New York State Militia,

PEACE-BREAKING AND PEACE-MAKING.

It will be remembered that the New York Tribune a few days ago expressed the opinion that "two thirds of the people on each side of the dividing line anxiously, absorbingly desire peace, and are ready to make all needful sacrifices to insure it." At the same time it proposed to remit the question of peace into the hands of the "rebel chief" on the one side and of President Lincoln or the other, though being perfectly aware that neither of these parties can or will effectuate the anxious, absorbing desire of the country.

Recurring to the discussion of this subject in number of Monday last, the Tribune says:

"President Lincoln, we understand, believes that no peace is now attainable that is not based on disunion; and he holds that he has no power, as he certainly has no inclination, to assent to such a peace. Hence his refusal to receive the rebel commissioners except on conditions to which they were unprepared to accede. We think he erred in this "that he should not only have received but erred in this—that he should not only have received but invited any proposition they were or should be empowered to make—the more exacting and unfavorable the better for the national cause. But the Intelligencer has no right to assume that we hold the preservation of slavery one of the necessary and proper bases of peace. That is the Intelligencer's own view—not ours. We indicate no conditions and no bases, desiring to leave our Government wholly unembarrassed by volunteer suggestions on this head.

"We know no allowable, no practicable mode of adjustices and strife at that recovery and the strife and the stripe a whee than through the action of the constituted or recog-nised authorities on either side. and we hold the chief obstacle to the pacification of our country to be the abject submission of the Southern whites to the sway of Jefferon Davis and his confederates in the wicked, wanto

whites evince a disposition to treat with us otherwish than through Davis & Co., and we warrant its prompt re

When the New York Tribune refuses to "em barrass" the Government by "volunteering suggestions" on any "head," we may safely take it for granted that its views under that "head" are in a very indefinite and unformed shape. On subjects about which it has strong and positive conclusion it never manifests any such consideration for "the Government." but has lectured the President in terms which on one notable occasion drew from him a public remonstrance addressed to its editor, and the fear of similar embarrassment was equally confessed by the President when in his interview with the Border States representatives he told them the time had not yet come for him to break with "the Greelev faction." If the Tribune will "indicate no conditions and no bases" as being either necessary or proper to secure peace, it is safe to say that it does not purpose to "embarrass" itself any more than the President in ultimately advocating "the best attainable peace" with or without slavery and with or without Union We know of no other subject on which our ontspoken contemporary practises a similar prudence. And we think it only just to say that there is no journal in the country which can s consistently as the Tribune take the lead in advocating a disunion peace. To do so, it need but recur to the familiar maxims it inculcated at the very threshold of the secession agitation. For instance, on the 9th of November, 1860, it said : "If the Cotton States shall become satisfied that they can do better out of the control to the thirt on letting them go in peace. The right to secede may be a reve tutionary one, But IT EXISTS NEVERTHELESS. \* We must ever resist the right of any State to remain

the Union and nullify or dely the laws thereof. To WITH-DRAW PROM THE UNION IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER; and whenever a considerable section of our Union stall deliberately resolve to go out. WE SHALL RESIST ALL CO-ERCIVE MEASURES DESIGNED TO KEEP IT IN. never to live in a Kepublic whereof one section is pine to another by bayenets." That distinguished advocate of disunion in Vir ginia, the Hon. WILLOUGHBY NEWTON, in a letter adcressed to the editors of this journal under date of November 21, 1860, and published in the

Intelligencer of November 24th of that year, enlosed to us at the time the number of the Trib containing the article from which the above citation is taken, and in the course of his letter referred to the comparative views of the Tribune and Intelligencer on the subject of secession as follows We quote from Mr. Newton's letter:

" Pardon me for a ying that the views of the Intelligencer on this subject seem to me to be crude and not well-considered. They savor of the dark ages, and are much more in accordance with the teachings of the despotisms of the Old World than with the liberal ideas of this free Kepublic, in which it has been generally conceded that and to reform, after, or about them, as they may seen necessary to promote their happiness and safety. I com mend to your careful attention a very sensible article from the New York Tribune which I enclose to you for publica-tion, an authority to which I do not often refer but which I presume, will be received without question in this discus sion. Similar sentiments, if I mistake not, were expressed a few years ago in the Senate of the United States by Senators Wade and Fersenden. But this by the way. "Nulators wade and resected. But this by the way. "Nutius addictus jurare in verba magistri," I proceed to discuss the question on principle. I sffirm that a State has a right to secede from the Union; and as a corollary it would be wrong in any human power to attempt by coercion to prev at the exercise of the right. Torone whose mind is thoroughly imbued with a knowledge of the bistory, as ure, and conditions of the Federal compact this propos tion seems so plain that it is almost axiomatic

When the Tribune expresses the opinion that "the chief obstacle to the pacification of our country" is to be sought in "the abject submission of the Southern whites to the sway of Jefferson Davis and his confederates." it gives us a good opportunity to remind that journal that before the outbreak of the war it contributed very largely. according to the measure of its influence, to create the conditions of that "abject submission" by inculcating doctrines which justified the secession of the Southern States equally with the secession of the thirteen United Colonies from Great Britain. For instance, on the 17th of December, 1860, it

"If it [the Declaration of Independence] justifies the secession from the British empire of three millions of Co-lonists in 1776 we do not see why it would not justify the secession of five millions of Southrons from the Federal Union in 1861. If we are mistaken on this point, why does not some one attempt to show wherein and why? For our own part, while we deny the right of slaveholders to hold slaves against the will of the latter, we cannot see how twenty millions of people can rightfully hold ten, of even five, in a detested Union with them, by military force."

"If seven or eight contiguous States shall present them-selves authentically at Washington, saying, 'We hate the Federal Union; we have withdrawn from it; we give you the choice between acquiescing nour scoes on and arrang-ing amicably all incidental questions on the one hand, and attempting to subdue us on the other '-we could not s'and coercion for subjugation, for me do not think it when invoked in behalf of those who deny it to others.

he Tribune re-affirmed these opinions. It then

"We have repeatedly said and nee once more insist, that the great principle embodied by Jefferson in the Declara-tion of American Independence that Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed is sound and just; and that if the Slave States, the Cotton States, or the culf States only chose to form an independent nation.

THEY HAVE A CLEAR MORAL RIGHT TO DO SO. Whenever it shall be clear that the great body of the Southern
people have become conclusively alienated from the Union,
and anxious to escape from it, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO
FORWARD THEIR VIEWS."

If, therefore, there was, in the beginning of the cession movement, an "abject submission" on the part of the Southern whites "to the sway of Jefferson Davis and his confederates," it is sufficient to say that the "rebel chief" had no "confederate" more outspoken than the New York Tribune in preparing the way for his hold on the Southern mind.

And since this movement has resulted in war. the Tribune, whether wittingly or unwittingly, has 'done its best to forward the views" of the secession agitators by advocating a civil policy which, should it be perpetuated, must render disupion in evitable by rendering Union and peace forever impossible. It has done as much by its infatuated ounsels since the war as before it to promote the abject submission" of the Southern whites to the sway of Jefferson Davis." It is vain to say let these whites evince a disposition to treat with us," while not only all incentives but all inducements to such a disposition have been taken away by the legislation of Congress and by the policy of the Executive.

The Tribune speeds its arrow very wide of the mark when, in avowing its willingness to refer all uestions at issue between "the North" and "the South" to the arbitration of a National Convention, it feels constrained to add that

tion, it feels constrained to add that

"The Intelligencer unfairly withholds from its readers a knowledge of the fact that not only did the Tribune but President Lincoln, and he entire Republican party, through its representatives in the 'Peace Conference' and otherwise, propose to submit 'all questions at issue between the North and the South to the arbitrament of a National Convention' in the spring of 1861, before one drop of blood had been spilt or a dollar's worth of property destroyed in this most needless war. But not only did the secessionists repel any such arbitrament, but the Unionists also of the Intelligencer's type ral ied all their forces to vote it down—even Kentucky, which had originally proposed this resort, now voting solid against it."

We were never averse to the proposition of Convention of States to be called for the purpos of a justing the dispute between the Slaveholding and Non-Slaveholding States. We were simply averse to the spirit in which that proposition was originated at the time, conceived as it was, in our opinion, merely for the purpose of preventing the deliberations of the Peace Conference from resulting in any definite solution of our troubles We could not fail to observe that the peculiar patrons of this proposition at that time were among those who had sought to render the Peace Conference a nullity, and the spirit of whom was perhaps justly reflected by Mr. Senator Chandler when be wrote as follows to the Governor of

"No Republican State should have sent delegates, by they are bere and cannot get away. Ohio, Indiana, and khode Island are caving in, and there is some danger of illinois, and now they beg us for God's sake to come to their rescue, and save the Republican party from rupture. I hope you will send stiff back men or none. The whole thing was gotton up against my judgment, and will end in thin smoke. Still, I hope as a mat er of courtesy to our erring brethren that you will send the delegates. Some of the manufacturing States think that a fight would be averal. In my estimation, without a little blood letting this Union will not be worth a rush."

Even so wise a statesman as Mr. Chase took what we conceive to be an inadequate view of this great question when he deplored the prevalent disposition to "compromise," and quieted his sympathies for the Border State Unionists by considerations of comparative political advantage. The reader will understand that we refer to the follow ing note which he wrote on arriving in Washing on to take his seat in the Peace Conference :

Washington, Feb. 9, 1861.

Dear Sir: Thanks for your note and explanation of that vote. It may be us ful. There is a greater disposition to compromise than I like to see. But I hope the best Half a dezen of the Border State gentlemen have been in our room to-night—Etheridge and Stokes, of Tennessee; Adams and Bristow, of K ntucky; Gilmer, of North Caro-lina, and others I really sympathize ici hthem, but see no ld sacrifice permanently a large to help them, for the puspose of gaining temporarity a little one: Yours, cordially,

When, therefore, Mr. Chase and his political friends sought to postpone the deliberations of the Peace Conference by proposing to remit all outstanding questions to the umpirage of a National Convention, we did not so much oppose the substance as the opportunity and the animus of the proposition. We are glad to believe that it was supported by some in good faith, but we could not for this reason lower our views to take in only the party aspects of the question when we were more concerned to preserve the Union from division than the Republican party from rupture. The political leaders who, after deliberately weighing the integrity of the Union in one scale and the integrity of their party in the other, deliberately struck the balance in favor of the latter, were not the men whose lead we cared to follow, especially when there were so many patriotic Republicans who set us a different example.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY returned to he seat of government on Saturday evening last from his visit to the North.

## HON, CHARLES MASON.

The name of this able, patriotic, and pure-minded gen tleman was suggested by the Constitutional Union of last evening, in the annexed paragraph, as a suitable candidate for the Ch cago nomination. It would be a fortunate republic that could always be favored with as enlightened nd virtuous a citizen for its Chief Magistrate :

hear frequent mention of the name of Hon. Charles Mason, of lows, as that which is likely to be honored with the nomination of the Chicago Convention if the policy of nominating a civilian prevails with that body. No better man could be presented. Hon. Charles Mason, of Iowa, for the Presidency.

## THE TROUBLES IN JAPAN.

Accounts from Kanagawa represent affairs there as stil meettled, and state that it was only in consequence of the presence of a large fleet that an outbreak was prevented. The Japanese Government seemed very determined in The Japanese Government seemed very determined in their efforts to close that port, and had even officially stated to the British Minister that it was essential in order to preserve peace. The same statement had been made to the French Minister, and threatening language used. There was a cordial co-operation between the Ministers of the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands, who had beld a number of conferences, and were sgreed as to the policy to be pursued, and were making united efforts to check the policy which the Japanese Government were disposed to carry out. In addition to the British fleet already in these waters the British ship-of-war (onqueror, with a battalion of marines, was expected daily. This would give the British fourteen ships and fifteen hundred men. There were besides a French cervette—the Duplex—and two Dutch corvettes much for the question of principle."

And on the 23d of February, 1861, a few days before the accession of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency, a show of force should be kept up by all the Powers. having treaties with Japan.

#### A SWORD TO ADMIRAL FARRAGUT. The sword prepared by the Union League of the city of

New York for Rear Admiral Farragut was delivered to the Admiral on the 24th of June. In reply to the committee. the Admiral returns his thanks for the beautiful present

"Next to the feeling of having done your duty, is that of Next to the feeing of naving done your duty, is that of knowing that your efforts are appreciated by your countrymen. I receive this gift as one of those gratifying evidences, and you may rest assured, gentlemen, that it will be duly cherished by your obedient servant." THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

We presented to our readers a few days ago some of the general reflections inspired in our mind by the near approach of the Chicago Convention, to which men of all parties are looking with equal intensity of interest, if not with the same expectations and hopes founded on the result of its deliberations.

We think it hardly too much to say that this assemblage will hold the hearts of the peo ple in its hands, and, according as its counsels shall seem to be prompted by the spirit of a comprehensive and catholic patriotism, or by the spirit of faction and dissension, it may count upon the judgment which will be pronounced on its labors Men's thoughts no longer run in the old channels. Party names have lost all their power to charm. The people are every where looking for a leader who will offer them, under his guidance, the pros pect of an escape from the terrible evils by which the country is environed. The people, we say, want a leader, a man " with heart, head, and hand equal to the crisis in which he shall be called to act-a man who by his native qualities or by his antecedents shall inspire confidence not only in his disposition but in his capacity to bring healing to this distracted land.

Many names have been canvassed, in public or in private, with reference to the honor of a nomination by that Convention. Among them we need but enumerate the names of Major General Mc-CLELLAN, Ex-President FILLMORE, Governor SEY-MOUR, of New York, Mr. Justice NELSON, of New York, Ex-President PIERCE, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, of Massachusetts, Hon. EDGAR COW-AN, of Pennsylvania, Judge George W. Wood WARD, of Pennsylvania, Hon. JAMES GUTHRIE. of Kentucky, and several others. It is not our intention to canvass the merits of any one of these distinguished gentlemen, much less to institute any comparisons among them. But the mere array or combination of these names is instructive for the light they shed on the completeness with which the cast-iron moulds of party have been fused by the fires of the ordeal through which the nation is now passing. For here are men belonging to all "parties," as parties have been heretofore known among us down to the present time. and yet these members of several different politica organizations are supposed, amid many differences on other points, to share such an identity of opinion with regard to the emergent issues of the hour that all former discriminations are now lost in the simple question, "What does he think of the Re-

If the choice of the Convention should fall or any one of the soldiers who have signalized their devotion to the Constitution and the Union by service in defence of both on the field of battle, it cannot be doubted, we think, that that choice will rest on Major Gen. McClellan-a man who more fully than any other among his com rades in-arms has evinced from the first a clear perception not only of the magnitude of the contest in which we are engaged, but also an insight into the principles on which it should be conducted and the ends to which it should be directed. He has ever recognised the fact that a wise and just civil policy is the necessary complement of military force, however gigantic the latter may be in its proportions, while the persecutions of which he has been made the object, and the unjust obloquy by which he has been persistently followed, combine with the popular traits of his character to give him a powerful hold upon the hearts of the soldiers whom There is a magnetism in his name which betrays its presence and its power alike in the walks of civil life and in the camp wherever his name is mentioned; and when we consider how his popularity has constantly grown under the studious efforts of his enemies to destroy his reputation, we may readily infer that he has in his character as

many elements of strength as of enthusiasm. Among the eminent civilians whom we have classified in the category above given we shall not be suspected of making an invidious distinction if, in giving expression to old personal and political attachments, we point in the first place to the commanding qualities which Ex-President FILL-MORE would bring to the difficult duties of the high office for which he is again suggested, after having once filled it with such conspicuous wisdom and ability in a day requiring talents and statesmanship not unlike those which are demanded by the present and the impending crisis. He is man singularly qualified, by the habits of his mind and by the traditions of his life, to deal with questions that call for the exercise of the highest wisdom in counsel united with firmness in action. Possessing a weight of character and a tenacity of resolve which would enable him in the future as in the past to moderate against the extremes of opinion in whatever direction they might tend, he would keep a steady hand on the helm in the foulest as in the fairest weather, and is the ship of State can be rescued from the breakers into which she has fallen, we may be sure that he would leave nothing undone which it is in the power of brave

and skilful pilotage to accomplish. In thus adverting to these two names-the on that of a soldier and the other that of a civilianwe again repeat that we intend no disparagement to any of the other eminent names which have been mentioned in connection with this exalted station. and the terms in which we have referred to both are inspired so little by partisanship or personal favoritism that we do not doubt our tribute to each would be endorsed by none more heartily and fully than by those who have distinction and merit enough to be named as their competitors for the

honor in question. If we abstain from any particular allusion to the qualifications which Gov. SEYMOUR may be justly supposed to p ssess for the next Presidency, it is only because we understand from the Albany Argus, a paper supposed to be in his confidence, that he is not a candidate for the nomination, and will not permit his name to be brought before the Convention. Mr. Justice NELSON has long been as well as he is favorably known for the learning and independence which he has brought to the discharge of his duties on the bench of the Supreme Court. In ordinary times we have not been in favor of looking to this bench for Presidential candidates. as its assessors, in renouncing political prepossesalso supposed to have renounced political aspirations. But in the present time it may be justly held that it is precisely this quality of an incum-

bent of the bench which would fit him for the discharge of duties requiring in a still higher sphere, if not in a higher degree, the attributes of the just

and inflexible judge.

Of Ex-President PIERCE, of Mr. WINTHROP of Mr. COWAN, Mr. WOODWARD, Mr. GUTHRIE and of the others who have been named for the next Presidency, we cannot undertake to speak more particularly than to say that, representing in their several names all the different shades of opinion which have formerly divided the people of this country into different political parties, they to-day stand, as we believe, on a common platform, whether regard be had to objects and ends of the great struggle in which the country is engaged. or to the agencies by which Union and Peace can alone be restored to our distracted land. Eschewng force as the sole means of restoring the one or the other, but not denying its just place in legitimate government, they would, we believe, all rely more on moral than on physical forces for the adjustment of those bases on which alone can be founded a peace that shall be enduring and a Union that shall be worthy of the name. We suppose that the Chicago Convention, fol-

lowing the example of its predecessors in late years.

will feel called to construct what, in modern parlance, is known as "a platform." Our readers know that we have no great respect for this species of political structure. Platforms have always seemed to us a clumsy device for the elevation of small men into a conspicuousness which they would never have received from the dignity of their characters or the eminence of their public services. As has been well said by another, "they are commonly made in times of high excitement, under a pressure of circumstances, and with the view to conciliate present support rather than to establish a permanent system of principles and line of policy for the future good government of the country. The Conventions which form them are transient in their nature; their power and influence are consumed in the using, leaving no continuing obligation upon their respective parties. And hence we need not wonder that platforms, so made, are hardly ever acted upon in practice." In illustration of this truth, we need but advert to the fact, already signalized by us a few weeks ago, that, on comparing the Baltimore Republican platform with the Chicago Republican platform of four years ago, we find the only plank common to both to be that which excites the least popular interest now, viz. the resolution in favor of the Pacific railroad. And how little effect the most elaborate platforms have n establishing a permanent system of principles or line of policy for the conduct of the Government, to be observed by those who are elevated to power on such foundations, we may read in the significant fact that the Republican majority of the present House of Representatives unanimously voted down, at the late session of Congress, one of the "planks" of the Republican platform of four years ago, and which was brought forward by a member of the Opposition for reaffirmance, as containing sound doctrine. Whatever may be con- It says: tained in the coming Chicago platform or omitted from it will be little reason among sensible persons for either supporting or opposing the man who may be nominated by the Convention. The people will look to the man himself, not to the declarations of those who nominate him, when they se rch for the grounds of their confidence as to the principles on which he will administer the Government. What would a "platform" add to the stature of a Washington, or of an Adams, or of a Jefferson, or of a Madison, or of a Monroe? On this point we endorse the following judicious suggestions made to the Chicago Convention by the Roston Courier :

"The Convention ought not to be an arena for debate, or for any personal display on the part of any of its members, however eminent or however able. We hope there will be no speech made there, except of a strictly business character, for the elucidation of matters directly before the assembly. We hope that the session will not be long here is no good reason why a single day should not h amply sufficient for the organization, the nomination of candidates, and the adoption of any brief and simple deca ration of principles which may be acceptable to the Con-

"In truth the people want no elaborate amplification of political principles on this occasion. They understand perfectly well just what is the object to be accomplished, namely, the removal of this Administration and the substi-tution of a bet er, and they will look with much more interest upon the nominations than upon any expression of opinion by the assembly. They do not care to be puzzled or delayed by lengthened disquisitions, or even to listen to a recapitulation of the enormities perpetrated by the Ad n ni-tration. These are in all men's minds and memories or, if not, they will be sufficiently dwelt upon in the course

We desire to see nothing proposed by the Convention about which men with the same honest object in view can reasonably differ. That object with all such men will be simply the restoration of the Union upon the basis of th nstitution; and all details as to the method by which this purpose is to be effected may properly be deferred, as they cannot be acted upon, until the new officers are chosen and the Administration is actually inaugurated.

# MILITIA LAW OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania has just passed a new militia law, in substance as follows:

"The Governor to call out fifteen regiments for State immediately, and, if not forthcoming by volunteer ing, to draft on the United States enrolment, with no exemptions whatever, whether of persons who have paid are apparently absolutely disabled. Appointments of comd officers by the Governor. The conference com mittees recommend a supplement requiring certain days of muster and a fine of five dollars on each State guard who does not furnish his own uniform

Col. T. C. DEVIN, of the Sixth New York cavalry, (ach ing Brigadier General of the second brigade, Merritt's division,) under orders from Gen. Merritt, presented yesterday to the Secretary of War two battle fligs captured by this brigade at the battle of Front Royal, on the 16th ustant, in which the Colonel was wounded. The flags belonged to Kershaw's division and Wickam's cavalry brigade of Fitz Hugh Lee's division.

The Secretary expressed his gratification in acknow edging the numerous gallant and meritorious services of Col. Devin, of which he gave earnest by an appointment as Brevet Brigadier General for gallantry in the field.

The sergeant and privates whose prowess personally ecured the colors were presented to Mr. Stanton, who courteously thanked them for their gallantry and directed a medal to be presented to each with his name engraven

There have been but few actions of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac wherein Col. Devin has not appeared conspicuous for courage, and we are gratified to learn that the merits of an officer who has participated in more than forty battles are appreciated by the Secretary of

The Richmond Examiner of the 16th says that the total number of Kankee prisoners in the Libby was eight hundeed and twenty-seven, including sixty-four negro prisonsions when they take their place upon it, may be ers. Forty-four officers are held there.

#### MODERATORS OF OPINION.

From an article on London Editors and Political Writers, contained in a late number of the London Society Magazine, the New York Observer cites

the following passage : "One set of editors see in Lord Palmerston and Earl Russell models of supernal wisdom, while abother set are equally certain that Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli can never go wrong; and neither one nor the other are awake to the great fact that the English people, taken as a whole, are of no party; that they sway to the one side or the other according as the acts of either attract their favor or rouse their indighation, and that that journal will, other things being equal, command the widest and the most lasting popularity which impartially distributes its applause or censure, not according to the name of the agent, but to the

The Observer justly says that this generalization has some large measure of truth in it, as applied to our own country. Our party newspapers are just as blind to the merits of their opponents as British editors; and it thinks that our people are so intensely devoted to party that "they are. as a whole, almost as blind as their blind leaders. Of course, it follows that independent journalism stands's poorer chance of success here than it does in England. Probably in no country in the world is the despotism of political party more stringently enforced and more patiently endured than here." Our contemporary proceeds to say :

"This is evident from the spirit of intolerance with which all attempts at independent criticism of men and messures are frowned upon and rebuked by men of all parties. It is held to be impossible for a man to differ honestly in opinion from the temporary leaders of the party. When these change all must change, and the sooner party. When these change all must enange, and successful the better for the changers. Very few men, of any party, the better for the changers of the the better for the changers. Very few men, of any party, are willing that the favorite doctrines or measures of the leaders of their party shall be resisted, and they regard the newspaper that attempts such resistance as necessarily in the interest of the other party. They do not rise to the dignity of character that acknowledges the right and duty of free discussion and the honest expression of opinion. They would have every man think as they think, or not speak at all. This is the sentiment of mere party men, and it is a great misfortune of our times. It is a or not speak at all. This is the sentiment of mere party men, and it is a great misfortune of our times. It is a greater misfortune in a free country like ours than in a mixed government like that of England. There is no despotism on earth more intolerant, cruel, and blind tran the despotism of a majori y may be. No one man feels the the despetism of a majori y may be. No one man feels the responsibility of the wrong done, and men in the aggregate, like corporations, will do what each man would shrink from with horror if he were acting alone. This is the reason why independent journalism stands less chance of success here than any where else. The people are the rulers, and each party is, for the time it holds power, the people. There are a select few in every community who have the good sense and cardor to form their opinions with the light of comparison and under the power of fair and free decursion. They are willing to read what and free discussion They are willing to read what a man says who differs from them, and then intelligent minds are pared to receive the truth from whatever source it mes. These are the clits of men. Milton wrote only or such readers, though be found more. Such men are the balance-wheel of the machinery of State. There is no reliance on any others in stormy times. When party spirit ecomes supreme liberty is gone.

"We may come out of the present national perils, not

we may come out of the present national peria, not by the despotic power of one party or another, but by the overthrow of the military power of the rebellion, and the prevalence of sound, patriotic, constitutional opinions. Extreme men on either side will repudiate this doctrine. there can be no stable government. Between these ex-tremes there is a study phalanx who have the law, the right, and God with them. If we ever have union with peace, the basis will be laid in submission to the principles of constitutional law, as interpreted by sober, thoughtful mind of calm, reflecting good men."

#### FILLING QUOTAS.

The Boston Daily Advertiser confesses that it was not without a deep feeling of mortification that its editors read the letter of Gen. Sherman, animadverting on the policy of "filling the quota" from the refuse whites and blacks of the South.

"To a community like our own, warlike, patriotic. communities where we see negligence and intiff rence to the great issues before us all, Gen Sherman's letter must ave been a startling, a humiliating blow. And yet there no reason to doubt that in this letter we have a fair view of the way in which the course of Massachusetts is regarded by able, experienced, fair-minded and patriotic m litary mee. Such opinions must be listened to. They challenge our attention. We cannot reply to them as we would to the sneers or the maignant falsehoods of the opposition

It is natural that fair-minded men should take the view they do in this matter, for it is understood that the representatives of Massachusetts in the popular branch of Congress distinctly refused to vote for the repeal of the commutation clause in the preceding conscription act unless such repeal was accompanied with permission to recruit in the Seceded States. And the Governor of Massachusetts was the first to perfect his machinery for reaping the advantages to be had under this pro-

The letter of Gen. Sherman has served, it would seem, to remove from some eyes the scales which had before prevented them from seeing this subject in its true light. The Advertiser now says: "Let not people think that we can get around this matter by some of our various expedients. All such talk is folly. Our own young men, born and bred in our own New England, with all the martial spirit which has distinguished her sons from Louisburg to Petersburg, with training, religious, morsl, and intellectual, which is theirs, with the atrength and endurance of our northern climate, must callet in the ranks and fight this war through Others cannot do it. Poor whites, liberated slaves, rebel prisoners who have taken the oath to get out of cannot take our places. Filling our quota will not do it.
That miserable, wretched, mortifying talk we hear so much
of, about 'filling our quota'—what has that to do with the war 7 The only thing is to fill our armies, and to fill them with efficient troops. One would think that people have devised a way of filling the quots without filling the ratks.

## THE POSTAL MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

If they have, so much the worse for us-for our reputat and for our success."

The instructions to the postmasters, clerks, &c. renired in the operations of the money order system antho ized under the act of Congress of the 17th of May last have been main'y prepared by the Post Office Department. and are now in the hands of the public printer. The preparations of the instructions was found to be a work of exceeding intricacy, the principal embarrasements being the want of a central Metropolitan Bank, with local branches, to facilitate the prompt return of the funds accumulating in the hands of postmasters, or to supply funds in case of n-cessity. In England and in Canada, where a money or er system is in successful operation, they have these bank advant ges, but in this country it has been found necessary to adopt substantially the Post Office De offices in lieu of the banks It is confidently expected that this arrangement will meet with the requirements. Certainly it is the only one which can be made under the existing laws. The design of the Department is that operations shall commence on the 1st of October, and efforts will be spared to accomplish the commencement of the system on that day.

## GEN. BURNSIDE.

Gen. Burnside arrived in this city Tuesday morning. in good health and spirits. It is not correct, as stated by the telegraph, that he has been relieved. The Court of Inquiry in relation to the assault on Petersburg has not reported, and has not examined any witnesses except Generals Burnside and Mesde. We judge that one of those unfortunate military difficulties which seem inceparable from the service has arisen between Gen. Mende and Gen. Burnside, and the latter, being the subordinate, preferred, as he always does, to sacrifice than to embarrass the army in the field by any controversy. He tendered his resignation, which Gen Grant refused, and also refused to relieve him. The Court of Inquiry was temporarily adjourned on account of the ne-cessary absence of some of its members. Gen Grant then cessary absence of some of its members. Gen distribute of offered him twenty days leave of absence, by viriue of which he is at home. We have no doubt that the testimination he is at home. which he is at home. We have no doubt that the testimony before the Court of Inquiry will acquit him of all
blame, and that he will soon be called to his old or to some
new command.—Providence Journal, August 17.